

Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheets include proposed changes to FIGs. 1, 2, 6, and 8, and replace the original sheets 1, 3, and 5, including FIGs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

Attachment: Three Replacement Sheets: 1, 3, 5

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 10-18 are newly added.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The specification is amended to remove specific references to the claims in the description. No new matter is added.

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. No new matter is added.

The Office action objects to the drawings; replacement sheets are attached. However, the Office action asserts that the selection means for locally bringing the movable element into contact with the light guide, as claimed in claim 1, is not illustrated in the drawings. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Although the claim is not to be interpreted as limited to the illustrated example embodiment of FIG. 1, the applicant notes that the electrodes 5, 6, and 7 of FIG. 1 provide means for locally bringing the movable element into contact with the light guide, as detailed at page 4, lines 4-14.

The Office action objects to claim 4 because "it is unclear what surface (first or second) is provided with prisms". The applicant notes that claim 4 is dependent upon claims 1 and 3, and first or second surfaces are not included in claims 1, 3, or 4.

The Office action rejects claims 1-5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stern (USP 5,771,321) and Benoit et al. (USP 6,497,492, hereinafter Benoit). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-9 depend, claims a display device that includes a light source, a light guide, a plate, and collimating means for collimating the generated light and configured to reduce reflections at the boundary surface of the light guide parallel to the plate.

Neither Stern nor Benoit teaches or suggests a collimator that is configured to reduce reflections at the boundary surface of a light guide.

Stern specifically teaches and illustrates an arrangement of light sources 14a, 14b and collimators 20a, 20b that are configured to cause reflections at the boundary surfaces of the light guide. Stern teaches an internal incident light angle of 50 degrees (Stern, column 8, lines 43-49).

Benoit teaches a collimator section 15 that is specifically designed to reflect the light within the lightguide to a microprismatic structure 23 that reflects the light so that it exits the lightguide.

As taught by Stern and Benoit, and consistent with conventional teachings regarding lightguides that are designed to effect an orthogonal change of direction of the input light, the collimators of Stern and Benoit are configured to direct the light so as to maximize internal reflections, thereby maximizing the light output in the orthogonal direction. The configuration of the applicant's collimator to reduce internal reflections, on the other hand, produces a decrease in the light output. However, as taught by the applicant, this decreased light output has been found to provide a more uniform distribution of light output (Applicant's page 5, lines 22-34).

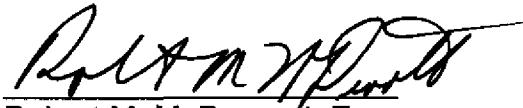
Because neither Stern nor Benoit teaches or suggests a display device that includes collimating means configured to reduce reflections at the boundary surfaces of a light guide, as claimed in claim 1, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stern and Benoit.

The Office action rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stern, Benoit, and Jones et al. (USP 7,074,463, hereinafter Jones). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 6 and 7 are dependent upon claim 1. In this rejection, the Office action relies upon Stern and Benoit for teaching the elements of claim 1. As noted above, neither Stern nor Benoit teaches or suggests a display device that includes collimating means configured to reduce reflections at the boundary surfaces of a light guide, as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stern, Benoit, and Jones.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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